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Twenty-sixth Biennial Report

of the

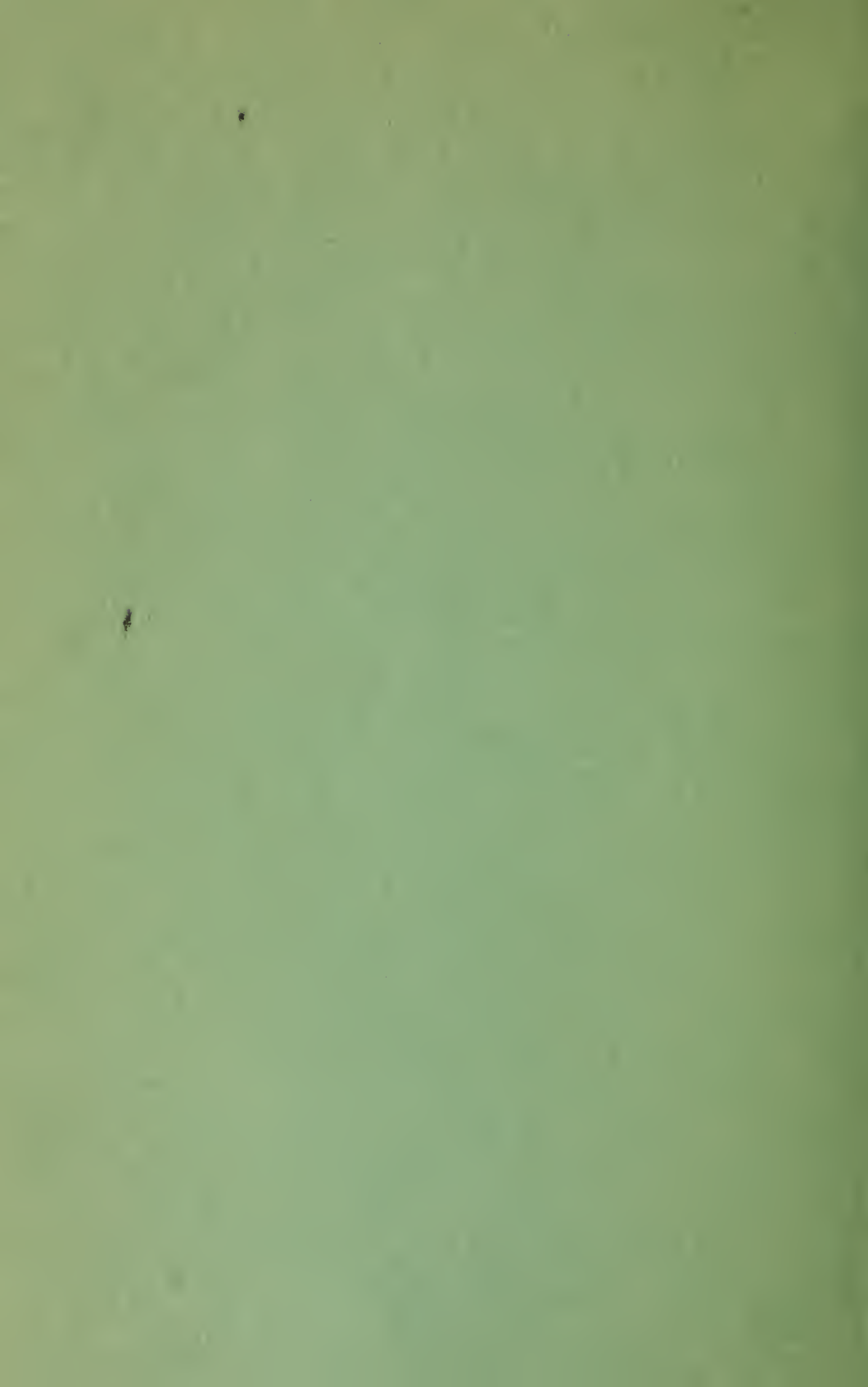
Board of Trustees

of the

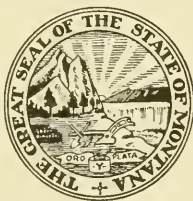
**Historical Society
of Montana**



1941-1942



Twenty-sixth Biennial Report
of the
Board of Trustees
of the
Historical Society
of Montana



1941-1942

NAEGELE PRINTING CO., HELENA, MONT.







PRESIDENTS AND LIBRARIANS of the HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MONTANA

FROM THE DATE OF ORGANIZATION MARCH 25, 1865

PRESIDENTS

Wilbur F. Sanders	1865-1890
Granville Stuart	1890-1895
Cornelius Hedges	1895-1897
William B. Hundley	1897-1903
Massena Bullard	1903-1909
Frank H. Woody	1909-1915
Charles B. Power	1915-1922
J. H. T. Ryman	1922-1926
James T. Stanford	June-August, 1926
Josephine I. Hepner	1926-

LIBRARIANS

Granville Stuart	1865-1875
Charles Rumley	1875-1885
William F. Wheeler	1885-1895
Wilbur E. Sanders	1895-1897
Laura E. Howey	1897-1907
William S. Bell	1907-1909
W. Y. Pemberton	1909-1922
James U. Sanders	1922-1923
David Hilger	1923-1937
John B. Ritch	1937-1942
Lucinda B. Scott	1942-

OFFICERS
of the
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MONTANA
1942

- Josephine I. Hepner, President Helena, Montana
O. F. Goddard, Vice-President Billings, Montana
Luella Watson White Sulphur Springs, Montana
Roy Crismas Great Falls, Montana
Lucinda B. Scott, Secretary Helena, Montana
- Lucinda B. Scott, Librarian Helena, Montana
Anne McDonnell, Assistant Librarian Helena, Montana

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MONTANA

TWENTY-SIXTH BIENNIAL REPORT TO GOVERNOR SAM C. FORD

1942

Helena, Montana
Dec. 7, 1942

Hon. Sam C. Ford,
Governor of Montana,
Helena, Montana.

Dear Sir:

We have the honor to submit herewith the twenty-sixth biennial report of the Historical Society of Montana for the years 1941-1942 in compliance with statute requirements.

We are respectfully,

Your obedient servants,

JOSEPHINE I. HEPNER,
President.

O. F. GODDARD,
LUELLA WATSON,
ROY CRISMAS,
LUCINDA B. SCOTT,
Secretary.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN

of the

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MONTANA

Helena, Montana
Dec. 7, 1942

To the Board of Trustees of the
Historical Society of Montana,
Mrs. Josephine I. Hepner, President,

Members of the Board:

We have the honor to submit herewith the twenty-sixth biennial report of the Historical Society of Montana for the years 1941-1942.

Of this period the late Mr. John B. Ritch served thirteen months faithfully and with distinction in the capacity of librarian. Upon his retirement, February 1, 1942, your librarian assumed office.

The constant goal of the Historical Society of Montana has been, not only to preserve as complete as possible record of Montana history but to retrieve from a rapidly receding past, a frontier history, of which no state can boast a more romantic, virile story, of those early territorial days, when industry, transportation, and the mere business of daily living depended upon the courage, the ingenuity, and the endurance of the men and women of the period.

That the Society has steadily climbed towards this goal is attested to by the following quotation from an article, "Resources of Western Libraries for Research in History," by Lawrence Clark Powell in the "Pacific Historical Review," September, 1942: "The finest collection on this state (Montana) is owned by the Historical Society of Montana (founded 1865) and lodged in the State Capitol at Helena. It numbers 38,000 books and pamphlets, in addition to pioneer manuscripts, maps, documents, ledgers, photographs, etc. The Montana newspaper files (1864 to date) are said to be the most complete of those of any state in the union."

So it is with pride that the Society can view its past achievements. However, a survey of the work of past years, discloses that there were certain conditions unfavorable to the full realization of the goals of the Board. Past librarians have, each biennium, reported that the quarters in which the library is housed are inadequate, though

pleasant; that museum space is at a premium and therefore we are losing gifts of value because donors do not care to give them if they must be stored and cannot be displayed; that many newspapers are folded and packed away in bundles because appropriations have been insufficient to cover binding costs; and that, even though the law requires that a volume of transactions and contributions be published annually, in all the years that the Society has been operating, to date only ten volumes have been published because of lack of funds.

That we have not the new library building provided for by the last session of the legislature is due to the national emergency. This we must bear with equanimity, and use the interim provided in preparing and planning for the best possible arrangement of our treasures when new quarters are provided.

It is to be hoped that appropriations are sufficient this year to have all the current and back files of newspapers bound so that they will be ready for transfer in the proper form when the time comes to move these. A most important and more costly phase of the work of preservation of our early day newspapers which are used constantly in research work is the re-binding and repair of many of the earlier volumes. This must be done if these are to be preserved.

The publication of an annual volume is a matter that should receive the earnest attention of the Board and the Librarian. The library has a vast amount of original material in the form of letters, journals, biographies of pioneers, etc., which should be published so that it would be more accessible to research workers in the historical field. The original material that we have on hand is one of the most powerful magnets that we possess to draw attention to the value of our library. We should look forward and plan for the time when it would be feasible to publish a quarterly or semi-annual historical magazine which through subscriptions might be partially self-supporting, and which undoubtedly would be incalculable value in arousing interest in the history of Montana and in securing contributions to the library.

Renewed efforts should be made this coming year to contact members of pioneer families and groups who have documents of interest and value to our records which they might be willing to donate. It is possible that some of the missing numbers in our early newspaper files may still be secured and it may be advisable to advertise to make known our wants.

The many requests that come into the library from all parts of the continent bear witness to the value of the material we possess and to the reputation of the library as an information center. We have been able to help many residents of the state secure their birth certificates by furnishing certified records of notices from the newspapers.

The main entry or "author cards" of the library catalog were photographed by workers sent from the University of Washington library in June, 1941, for the "Union Catalog of Books and Pamphlets Relating to the Pacific Northwest." This "union catalog" will contain cards for the holdings of the principal libraries in the Pacific Northwest. It is housed in the library of the University of Washington at Seattle and will be of great service to students of northwest history.

This year, Mr. John Van Male of Denver, Colorado, made a survey of library resources in certain Montana libraries for the Pacific Northwest Bibliographic Center which is also located in the library of the University of Washington. Mr. Van Male, an authority on library matters and books relating to the west, spent several days in our library and expressed himself as being very favorably impressed with our collection.

In the spring of 1941, volume ten of the "Contributions of the Historical Society of Montana" was published. The book contained two journals of the fur trade for the years 1854-1856 with notes and references explanatory of the journals. We are happy to have these two journals in print and thus made available to students of the fur trade period.

Our visitors have been numerous this year in spite of rubber and gas restrictions. Many children from the Helena schools and groups of students from various organizations visit us and perhaps here for the first time sense something of the romance and glory of Montana history. We need, for out-of-state groups requesting information on Montana, a printed or mimeographed leaflet giving in skeleton form the highlights of Montana history and a bibliography which would supplement this.

We are most fortunate in having as our assistant librarian one who is so thoroughly acquainted with all our resources. Many writers of northwest history in their prefaces acknowledge the aid they have received from Mrs. Anne McDonnell and the library. Personally, we owe her a debt for her ever-ready willingness to make our induction into service profitable for the library. Both Mrs. McDonnell and myself have experienced the most cordial and courteous relations with the various offices and departments in the capitol building.

To the members of the Board of Trustees of the Historical Society of Montana I wish to express my appreciation of their cooperation in all matters relating to the conduct and welfare of the library as well as their interest and assistance in the matter of the new building.

Respectfully submitted,

LUCINDA B. SCOTT, Librarian.

Books Accessioned During 1941-1942

General works, newspapers, periodicals, etc	242
Religion and philosophy	25
Sociology	120
Philology	1
Natural sciences	24
Useful arts	23
Fine arts	7
Literature	34
History and travel	362
Biography	45
Total	884

During the past biennium we have received a number of photographs and historical articles for the museum. Especially interesting and valuable additions to the picture collection were a number of oil, water color and pen and ink sketches by Charles M. Russell which were donated to the library by Mr. C. R. Smith of New York City, and an oil portrait of Hon. Lew L. Callaway, a gift of the Masonic Grand Lodge of Montana. The portrait of Mr. Callaway is the work of a Montana artist, Jack Beauchamp, which adds to its merit for our collection.

